THE ECHO PROGRAM
Extended Care Health Option

June 15, 2005

Today – the Foundation

Basic Benefits

ADFM

NON AD FM

CCTP

Active duty FMs can still enroll in CCTP until ECHO comes on board

+

PFPWD

DME

PT, OT, Speech

Transportation

Durable Equipment

ABA Therapy

Hearing Aids

CCTP

Only retirees enrolled before the start of the new contract

Implementation Date: September 1, 2005

PFPWD &

******CCTP******

END

****Retirees enrolled in CCTP at the start of the new contract will continue to receive the same level of services they have been receiving. ADFMs will transition into EHHC.

ECHO BEGINS :

All DME under Basic

ABA under ECHO

PT, OT, Speech under Basic

Hearing aids (ADFMs only) under Basic

2 different RESPITE CARE benefits under ECHO

HHC hrs under ECHO not limited to # of hrs but by financial cap

ECHO BASICS

- Beneficiary Must
  - use Basic Program first
  - be enrolled in Service EFMP – DD 2792
  - be “registered” in ECHO
- Monthly limit increased to $2,500 – does not count EHHC or EHHC Respite
- No change in sliding scale co-pay for Service member – only in months when ECHO benefits are received
- No deductible
- Does not accrue to catastrophic cap
- Benefits must be pre-authorized by the MCSC

“New Benefits”

- ECHO Respite Care
  - ‘Dinner & a movie’ benefit
  -16 hrs/month break for primary caregivers
- ECHO Home Health Care
  - Not limited to part time or intermittent
  - Capped by cost, not by hours (SNF reimbursement rate)
- EHHC Respite Care
  - Sleep benefit
  - 8 hrs/day, 5 days per week

Respite benefits can ONLY be used in a month when another ECHO benefit is being received. Cannot use both at the same time.

The Respite Benefits cannot be used for siblings, employment, deployment, or pursuing education AND they are not accumulative.

Questions

- How will eligibility for Autism and Asperger's syndrome be determined?

  Qualifying condition:
  - Serious physical disability:
    - Any *physiological disorder* or condition or anatomical loss affecting one or more body systems which has lasted, or with reasonable certainty is expected to last, for a minimum period of 12 contiguous months, and which precludes the person with the disorder, condition or anatomical loss from unaided performance of at least one Major Life Activity
      - Major Life Activity: Breathing, *cognition*, hearing, seeing, and age appropriate ability essential to bathing, dressing, eating, grooming, speaking, stair use, toilet use, transferring, and walking
- How will the MCSC verify enrollment in the EFMP?
  - Beneficiary faxes signed DD 2792 and DD 2792-1
  - No re-registration for ECHO required when moving
- How are EFMP coordinators being notified?
  - TMA is working with EFMP coordinators and the MCSC to work out processes

Questions

- How are providers being notified?
  - The TRO Special Needs Coordinators are working with the MTF staff to educate
- What type of forms are necessary to authorize and process a referral for ABA at home?
  - Referral from physician stating medical necessity
- How will Guard and Reserve families be handled with ECHO eligibility?
  - If there is not a Service requirement for enrollment, then it is waived for ECHO registration

Questions

- How do families request the two types of respite care?
  - Families must contact the MCSC to arrange for the care to be provided. The MCSC are asked to use their best business practice to implement this process
- Families can now receive therapies under PFPWD or the Basic program. How will this change under ECHO?
  - Physical therapy, Speech therapy and Occupational therapy will be administered under the Basic program effective September 1, 2005

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